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INFORMATION AGENCY

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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INFO ACOC-01 OSO-02 PD-02 NEA-03 PG-01 /010 A1 9

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P R 196141Z FEB 87

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 8263
INFO RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 0958
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O R R E C T I V E C O P Y C H A N G I N G D T G

USIA

ISLAMABAD FOR CPAO, BPAO PESHAWAR, STATE FOR NEA/DUNBAR

EO 12356 N/A

SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT - EXPOSURE
REF: ISLAMABAD 03691

1. BU AND THEN P/DH CONTACTED BY MS. KATHLEEN PHALEN OF CBS PROGRAM "WEST 57TH STREET". PHALEN WILL COVER A MAJOR STORY ON FREEDOM MEDICINE AND IS INTERESTED IN DOING A SHORT PIECE ON AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT. P/DH HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE FOCUS ON THE PROJECT, BU INDICATES THAT THEY AND NICK MILLS HAVE DONE THE SAME. MS. PHALEN HAS INDICATED THAT HER PIECE WOULD NOT BE AIRED UNTIL MID-APRIL. BU HAS REITERATED TO P/DH THAT IT IS NOT SEEKING PUBLICITY FOR THE PROJECT BUT RECOGNIZES THAT MEDIA INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT WHEN RAISED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS PRUDENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. ALL SENSITIVITIES ON PROJECT PUBLICITY HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CONVEYED TO MS. PHALEN AND WHILE SHE UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR LOW-KEY, LOW-PROFILE APPROACH, IT IS EXPECTED THAT HER PROGRAM WILL GO AHEAD WITH A STORY, PARTICULARLY ON THE ANGLE OF AFGHANS BEING TRAINED IN MEDIA TO COVER THE WAR. P/DH HAS ADVISED MS. PHALEN TO CONTACT THE CPAO AND BPAO/PESHAWAR UPON ARRIVAL FOR GUIDANCE. AS SOON AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE, INCLUDING ETA, POST WILL BE INFORMED.

3. FREEDOM HOUSE REPORTS INQUIRY BY BILL MC GURN, NEWS FEATURES EDITOR OF THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL (HONG KONG), WHO ALSO WISHES TO DO STORY SOON ON MEDIA PROJECT, ETC. CONTACTS FOR MC GURN GIVEN WERE CPAO AND BPAO/PESHAWAR. NO ETA AVAILABLE. (P/DH)

WICK

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